



The IGUANA

Volume 16, No. 10

May 14, 2004



Traveling in style



Photo by Kaye Richey

Soldiers aboard two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters of the 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment, land at the airport May 5 in Barahona, Dominican Republic. The aviators were picking up Brig. Gen. John D. Gardner, commanding general of U.S. Army South, in order to transport him to Haiti for a visit with troops serving there.

You can never have too many heroes

By Master Sgt. Ginger Schreitmueller
Air Force Special Operations Command
Public Affairs

It wasn't a heated discussion, but certainly one that provoked a vocal exchange of opinions. It wasn't about politics, policies or religion. It was centered on a four-letter word: Hero.

My friend insisted the term is overused, being randomly placed in news articles that highlight individuals for everything from saving a trapped kitten to Airmen on the battlefields in Iraq.

His viewpoint is if you label everyone a hero, then you degrade the significance of the term. If you are just doing your job, you can't be a hero. You are just good at what you do.

Not true, I countered. Labeling people as heroes does not belittle the term. On the contrary, it enhances the

power of the word. That is when I stepped on my soapbox.

I have tons of heroes. Some have done unbelievable feats. Some have done simple little actions. All make a serious impact on my life.

For example, Superman is my hero. He is strong and tough on the outside; inside he is mild mannered. Kryptonite aside, he reminds me that you have to have balance in your life.

My family and friends, whose faith has pulled me over some Grand Teton-sized rough spots, are my heroes. They are constant reminders that I have a cheering section when I need one.

My children are my heroes. They know how to make me laugh when I want to cry. They continually surprise me with their levelheaded philosophy on living life. They remind me that being a mom is the coolest job in the world.

Then there are people like retired Master Sgt. Tim

Wilkinson. His personal courage and humble attitude remind me that dedication and professionalism make the difference even when you're in the midst of a 15-hour firefight.

As I rambled on with my list of heroes, my friend conceded the discussion with his hands up in an "I-quit" gesture. I didn't necessarily win but I did make my point. Everyone needs heroes and you can't have too much of a good thing.

My personal list of heroes is endless, and I hope I continue to add names to that illustrious list every chance I get. Heroes are those whose actions, words, deeds or mere presence portray courage and strength. My heroes remind me what is important in life.

It is not about being good at your job or being recognized for some specific achievement. It is about the impact you make in the life of others.

All you can ever hope is that you are on someone's list of heroes.

The way, the truth, the life

By Chap. (Capt.) Rory Rodriguez
JTF-Bravo Chaplain

Since this is my first article, I thought I would introduce myself to include my Christian testimony in hopes to edify those who may happen to read this.

Being born in 1958 has equipped me in learning from the "school of hard knocks." My generation was usually tough and possessed some common sense to a degree.

My mother, who went to be with Jesus about two years ago, raised up three wild boys during my growing up years. I am a twin and have an older brother in Tennessee. I grew up mostly in California and Hawaii.

The Lord God saw to it that I should experience many different cultures in order to equip me for ministry years later. (Of course I did not realize this until after I became a Christian). To this day, if I had a place to pick for my retirement, it would either be California or Hawaii.

I suppose it was during my high school years that I really began my quest for my purpose in life: the stuff that existentialists and philosophers think or write about. I am sure that you as well have also considered just who you really are and why you exist in time and space.

My quest for truth launched me to investigate Eastern and Western writings to include: the books of Carlos Casteneda, who is also called "The Godfather of the New Age," the theories of Ying and Yang, Yoga, Palmistry, Zen Buddhism, Hinduism, Astrology, meta-

physics, the philosophy of religion, and a myriad of other religions and philosophies. Looking back, it was probably looking upward at the heavens that sparked that search.

What was happening was found in the Book of Psalms as found in the 19th chapter, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork..." I was being instructed indirectly through God's creative acts that there exists the truth that God exists and He must surely have a plan for my life.

It wasn't until I joined the Navy and was sent to Guam that God revealed himself to me very powerfully in my spirit. I didn't realize until looking back years later during this time that verily God will manifest himself to any person who is genuinely searching for truth.

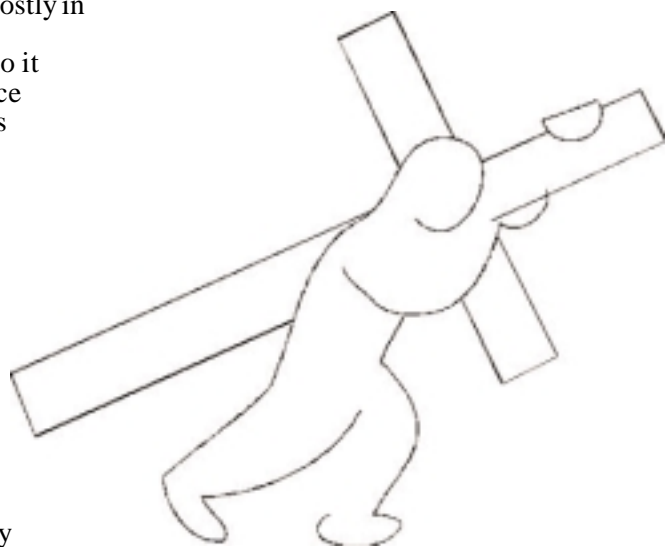
God led me to Guam, led me to a specific individual who showed me from his divine and authoritative book (The Holy Bible), how to personally know him and his son Jesus Christ.

God implanted his Spirit with my spirit and created in me with new desires and a thirst to know his Word.

So, after my next payday I bought a King James Bible and began to read and study in order to grow up and become the man that God wanted me to be.

I rejoice that I have the assurance of knowing Jesus Christ who is indeed, "the Way, the Truth and the Life."

My hope and prayer being here at this particular place is for others to know the way, the truth and the life.



SUBMISSIONS

The Iguana is always looking for submissions. Any articles, photos or letters to be submitted to *The Iguana* should be sent to the PAO at michael.tuttle@jtfb.southcom.mil or delivered to the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. D-06. If you have questions about possible submissions call ext. 4150 or 4676 to talk to the editor.

The IGUANA

EDITORIAL STAFF

JTF-Bravo Commander
 Col. William G. Phelps Jr.

Public Affairs Director
 1st Lt. Rob Goza

Superintendent
 Tech. Sgt. Roel Utlej

Editor
 Pfc. Michael Tuttle

Photo Technician
 Martin Chahin

E-mail:

PUBLICAFFAIRSOFFICE@jtfb.southcom.mil

Website: <http://www.southcom.mil/home/jtfbravo>

This funded, joint U.S. Air Force/Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas. Contents of *The Iguana* do not necessarily reflect the official view of, and are not endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense or the departments of the Air Force or Army.

Content is edited, prepared and provided by the Joint Task Force-Bravo Public Affairs Office, APO AA 34042, in Building D-06. Telephone numbers are 011-504-234-4634, ext. 4150 or 4676. Fax is ext. 4550. or DSN 449-4150/4676. Readers with story ideas should call the Public Affairs office. All photographs are property of JTF-Bravo unless otherwise noted.

PRINTED BY PUBLYNESA

May 14, 2004

News

The IGUANA 3

Malaria: It's real and it's here

By Maj. Frederick Davidson
Chief of Preventive Medicine

I don't take my weekly malaria pill because it gives me diarrhea; I don't like taking pills; there's no malaria on Soto Cano Air Base and I'm not going to be here long enough to get malaria."

These responses and others are all too familiar to members of the Preventive Medicine Services of the JTF-B Medical Element. The fact is that malaria is a real threat to the health of the U.S. Forces operating in Honduras.

Malaria is an infectious disease caused by a parasite that is injected during the bite of an infected anopheles mosquito. The mosquito bites an infected person and picks up the parasite, which multiplies within the mosquito. When the mosquito bites an uninfected person, it injects some of the parasites during the bite. The parasite then makes its way to the liver of that person, where it multiplies. Once it matures into another form, in the liver, it moves to the bloodstream causing the characteristic symptoms of malaria.

In Honduras, the two most common types of malarias are vivax and falciparim malaria, with vivax, by far, the more common of the two. Individuals with vivax malaria may initially experience a general run down feeling (flu like symptoms), characterized by chills, shakes, headaches, rapid rising temperature, nausea and profuse sweating. This cycle may last a week or longer.

In untreated cases, relapses of the disease occur at irregular intervals for up to two to five years and malaria infections have been known to persist for as many as 50 years.

Falciparim malaria, while less common than vivax, can cause life threatening blood cell destruction, kidney failure, liver failure, brain damage and shock. Irreversible complications can occur suddenly.

What can be done to keep from developing malaria?

Malaria prophylaxis tablets contain the drug chloroquine with the usual dose

being one tablet of 500 milligrams taken by mouth weekly. Chloroquine inhibits the parasite in the blood stream and prevents it from developing into malaria, however, it may only suppress the symptoms of malaria should a person be bitten by an infected mosquito. The drug chloroquine will not eliminate vivax malaria parasites, which locate themselves in the liver. For this purpose soldiers and airmen should insure they are provided with a second drug called primaquine before they return to CONUS. Primaquine tablets kill any infectious parasites in your system and prevent you from introducing malaria into your home community. You will take one tablet a day, for 14 days, while you continue to take chloroquine for an additional four weeks.

Other personal protective measures

The rainy seasons in Honduras begin in May. After a large rain, standing water provides a breeding ground for the larvae of mosquitoes. To counter the threat, the contractor (PAE) provides community treatment for both larvae and adult mosquitoes.

Even with treatment, the job of controlling these insects is formidable. Each one of us can do our part to protect ourselves from malaria. Anopheles mosquitoes tend to bite at night. Nightly spraying of screen living and sleeping quarters with an aerosol preparation of pyrethrum or other insecticides are helpful in controlling mosquitoes in hootches.

The use of bed nets will also help prevent nighttime biting. When out at night, roll your sleeves down and use the repellent on exposed skin. DEET is currently the most effective repellent available.

Malaria is a preventable disease and malaria prophylaxis is an individual and a command responsibility. Taking weekly malaria tablets during deployment and then taking the chloroquine-primaquine follow up upon return to CONUS will prevent you from taking home some unplanned souvenirs... liver based malaria parasites.

If you have any questions concerning malaria or chloroquine, contact Preventive Medicine Services at 4200/4500. Take malaria tablets and stay healthy!!!!

Rumsfeld accepts responsibility for Abu Ghraib

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld accepted full responsibility for "the terrible activities that occurred at Abu Ghraib."

The secretary said the alleged abuse of Iraqi prisoners at the prison in Iraq "occurred on my watch, and as secretary of defense I am accountable for them, and I take full responsibility."

Rumsfeld was joined by Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Acting Army Secretary Les Brownlee; Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker; and U.S. Central Command deputy commander Air Force Lt. Gen. Lance Smith.

Protestors interrupted the secretary, calling for his resignation, as Rumsfeld read his opening statement.

The secretary said he also accepts the further responsibility to evaluate what happened at the prison, to bring those who broke laws to justice and to make changes to make sure such horrific actions do not happen again.

Rumsfeld apologized to Iraqi detainees who were abused by military police. "To those Iraqis that were mistreated by members of our armed forces, I offer my deepest apology," the secretary said. "It was inconsistent with the values of our nation, inconsistent with the teachings of the military, and it was fundamentally un-American."

Rumsfeld said he deeply regrets the damage done to the reputation of the American military and the country as a whole. He also said he regrets not adequately

conveying the gravity of the situation to the president and members of Congress before they saw the pictures in the media.

The secretary pointed out that honorable soldiers did stand up and move forward with suspicions. Rumsfeld praised Army Spc. Joseph Darby for stepping forward with his concerns. He also praised the military chain of command for its quick and effective actions once the allegations were known.

Rumsfeld also announced a new commission to examine "the pace, the breadth, the thoroughness of the existing investigations and to determine whether additional investigations or studies need to be investigated." Rumsfeld said the panel will have 45 days to report once it takes up its duties.

Myers said the incidences of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib are "absolutely appalling," and that the actions of those involved are unconscionable and absolutely unacceptable. But he praised the chain of command's response to the allegations.

"Since Army Brig. Gen. (Mark) Kimmitt's public announcement of the allegations back in January, the commanders' response to the problems highlighted in these investigations has been timely and thorough," Myers said. Kimmitt, deputy operations director for Combined Joint Task Force 7 in Iraq, has served as the coalition's chief military spokesman at Baghdad news conferences.

The chairman reminded the senators that the commanders did well with the situation even though they were handling other challenges in Iraq, especially in Fallujah and Najaf.

Myers said he called CBS news anchor Dan Rather,

asking that the network hold the story that was due to run on its program "60 Minutes." Myers said he did so after talking with Army Gen. John Abizaid, commander of U.S. Central Command. "I did so out of concern for the lives of our troops," the chairman said. "The story about the abuse was already public, but we were concerned that broadcasting the actual pictures would further inflame the tense situation that existed then in Iraq and further endanger the lives of coalition soldiers and hostages." CBS did hold off, but then aired the pictures on the "60 Minutes II" program April 29.

Myers said he was "terribly saddened" for the hundreds of thousands of service men and women who are serving or have served honorably in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. "I know our service men and women are all suffering unfairly with a collective sense of shame over what has happened," he said.

In his questioning of the panel, Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman contrasted the U.S. response to the abuse scandal and terrorist responses to acts perpetrated against Americans. He noted that American leaders apologized to the Iraqi people for the outrages in Abu Ghraib, but he hasn't heard anyone apologize for the 3,000 Americans killed in the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, or an apology for the hundreds of Americans killed in liberating Iraq or an apology for the killing and desecration of four security persons in Fallujah.

Rumsfeld said the world will see how the United States corrects mistakes. "Part of what we believe in is making sure that when wrongdoing or scandal do occur, that they are not covered up, but they are exposed, they are investigated and the guilty are brought to justice," he said.

Sovereignty transfer won't be instant

By Spc. Lorie Jewell
Army News Service

As U.S., coalition, Iraqi and U. N. authorities work to transfer sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government June 30, a senior U.S. official cautioned today that it wouldn't be a complete process.

"On June 30, there will not sort of be a light switch turned on or turned off where it's just instant – it's a gradual process," Coalition Provisional Authority chief spokesman Dan Senor noted at a Baghdad news conference.

Additional authority is being turned over to Iraqis each day as the turnover date nears, Senor told reporters, noting the CPA began establishing Iraqi interim government ministries March 28.

"Iraqis will not assume all authority" on June 30, Senor said, but he added that the process of transferring power to an interim Iraqi government continues.

Thus far, he said, Iraqi ministries for education, municipalities and public works, science and technology, culture, agriculture, and displacement and migration have been set up. The ministry of water resources, Senor added, is being established today.

Senor said the Iraqi ministries of industry and minerals, foreign affairs, and planning and development are to be set up this week. "And we will continue to work every single week between now and June 30 to turn over additional ministries to the Iraqi leadership," he noted.

U.S., coalition and Iraqi forces continued offensive operations across Iraq to establish stability, effect re-

construction and prepare for the transfer of sovereignty, Army Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt noted at the news conference. Kimmitt, deputy operations director for Combined Joint Task Force 7, accompanied Senor at the briefing.

Over the past 24 hours, he said, the coalition conducted 1,637 patrols and 17 offensive operations, flew 32 Air Force and Navy sorties, and captured 29 anti-coalition suspects.

Today, the general noted, senior Marine officers from the 1st Marine Division convoyed into Fallujah to meet with the mayor and other officials to talk about plans to rebuild the battered city. Pro-coalition Iraqi troops, Kimmitt said, facilitated the Marines' trip into Fallujah, which took place without encountering any hostile fire.

Congress, nation designate military appreciation month

By Gene Harper
American Forces Press Service

Both chambers of the U.S. Congress have adopted a resolution calling for Americans to recognize and honor U.S. service members during May's National Military Appreciation Month.

Virginia Rep. Tom Davis, along with 16 co-sponsors, introduced Concurrent Resolution No. 328 in the House in November.

The Senate agreed to it without amendment and by unanimous consent April 26.

The resolution states that the House, with the Senate concurring, "supports the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month."

It also "urges the president to issue a proclamation

calling on the people of the United States, localities, organizations and media to annually observe (the month) with appropriate ceremonies and activities." Finally, the resolution urges the White House Commission on Remembrance to "work to support the goals and objectives" of the month.

The Senate first passed a resolution in 1999 designating National Military Appreciation Month. That declaration summoned U.S. citizens to observe the month "in a symbol of unity, ... to honor the current and former members of the armed forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom and peace."

Traditionally, May has focused on the military in many ways. For example, Public Service Recognition Week, celebrated the first full Monday through Sunday in May since 1985, recognizes the roles of public ser-

vants, including the military, at local, state, regional and federal levels.

As a part of the week, communities across America showcase military equipment and service members from U.S. installations. The largest event takes place on Washington's National Mall, where more than 100 federal agencies put their activities, people and equipment on public display. This year's mall event is May 6 to 9.

Armed Forces Day, created in 1949, is an annual event held on the third Saturday in May, with activities at U.S. military bases worldwide. This year's celebration is May 15.

The month culminates with Memorial Day, a federal holiday on the last Monday in May. The day, dating from the Civil War era, traditionally has marked recognition of those who have died in service to the nation.

Unified Quest 04 focuses on joint capabilities

By Spc. Lorie Jewell
Army News Service

Faced with the challenge of moving two large units through a city surrounded and largely controlled by American and allied forces, the commander of a mock enemy army employed ingenuity and steely resolve to push his troops forward.

He arranged a parade, with thousands of civilian residents lining both sides of the main thoroughfare and children scurrying about, cheering as the enemy soldiers marched safely through the city.

The victory was short-lived, though. Once the units were away from residents, America and friends hammered their foes with a joint wrath that destroyed at least 10 percent of the enemy force.

In Unified Quest 04, a war game co-sponsored by the Army and U.S. Joint Forces Command, tactical moves like the parade dreamed up by retired Army Col. Gary Phillips, a 'red' force commander, help shed light on what con-

flicts and combat may look like in the future.

The game, played out May 2-7 at Carlisle Barracks between 'blue' and 'red' forces, was set in the year 2016 with a major combat operation in a fictional middle-eastern country and a smaller contingency in a mythical country set in the real-world area of Indonesia.

The central question the game set out to answer was how to counteract an adversary relying on a combination of protracted, unconventional operations and the threat of weapons of mass destruction.

For the second consecutive year, the game's focus was on the joint capabilities of war fighting.

Along with the other U.S. service branches and commands, players also came from the armies of 13 foreign countries – Spain, Britain, France, Germany, and Turkey, for example – and representatives of universities, other government agencies such as the U.S. State Department and non-governmental organizations like Doctors Without

Borders.

This year's game continued a global scenario that began two years ago, but with more emphasis on stabilization operations, said David Ozolek, assistant director of Experimentation at the Joint Forces Command.

Ozolek and others stressed that Unified Quest is not about war planning, but war gaming. Scenarios are created with input from experts in economics, social trends and scientists who try to replicate realistic global pictures of the future.

"It's about testing concepts, pushing them to failure," said Bill Rittenhouse, chief of war gaming for TRADOC. "It's about exploring problems and identifying solution strategies."

As a blue task force commander, retired Army Lt. Gen. Don Holder still faced stiff challenges after his troops took control over most of the fictional middle-eastern country.

Although 'blue' surrounded the capital city of 17 million people, 'red' forces maintained a heavy presence inside.

The main supply route was routinely disrupted.

With a future combat system that gave 'blue' easy weapons superiority, Holder found his strategy shifting from military might to relationship cultivation when trying to stabilize his forces in and around the capital city. In an effort to get the city's citizens to accept the 'blue' force, Holder and other leaders worked on spreading the message that residents would have their own government and getting media reports into the city that reported how well conditions were in other parts of the country.

Brig. Gen. David Fastabend, game director, and Maj. Gen. James Dubik, director for joint experimentation with the Joint Forces Command, are encouraged with the success of the joint focus on the game.

"Having a venue where all the services can be together to think out problems is very powerful," Dubik said.

"The concepts we're delivering are much richer as a result of the combined efforts," Dubik added.

Sports

May 14, 2004 5

Intramural Softball Standings as of May 10

	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Losses</u>
JSF	6	1
AFFOR	6	2
Fire Dawgs	3	3
Comayagua	1	5
ARFOR	1	6

***There will be 16 softball games played between May 10 and May 19 as the season is condensed to ensure that JSF can compete in the playoffs before their tour here is over. The post season tournament will begin May 20.**



Photo by Pfc. Michael Tuttle

AFFOR pitcher Maj. Richard Young delivers a pitch to a JSF batter during an intramural softball game Monday night. After defeating ARFOR 12-11 in their first game of the night, AFFOR beat JSF 15-8 in their second game.

Air Force reservist makes major league debut

Courtesy of Air Force Reserve Command News Service

When he is not wearing the blue and gray uniform of the San Diego Padres, relief pitcher Jason Szuminski switches to Air Force blue as a first lieutenant in the Air Force Reserve.

The 6-foot, 4-inch, 220-pound right-hander is the only Air Force reservist in Major League Baseball. He is assigned to the Air Force Research Laboratory at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

Lieutenant Szuminski attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on an Air Force ROTC scholarship. While there, he tried out for the school's varsity baseball team as a walk-on. After a successful college career, Lieutenant Szuminski was drafted in 2000 by the Chicago Cubs in the 27th round of the amateur baseball draft.

He made his professional debut with Chicago's rookie league team in Arizona then returned to Cambridge to earn his degree in aerospace engineering. After graduation, the Cubs wanted Lieutenant Szuminski to report to their Class A team in Michigan. However, he still

owed the active-duty Air Force four years because of his ROTC scholarship, and he was assigned to Los Angeles AFB, Calif.

It looked like his dream of a major-league career was over until the lieutenant discovered the Air Force's World Class Athlete Program, which allows elite athletes to train with the goal of making a U.S. Olympic team.

The program gave him the chance to develop his baseball skills in the Cubs' minor-league system and shoot for making the 2004 U.S. Olympic baseball team.

That plan went awry when the U.S. team lost in an Olympic qualifying tournament, effectively knocking Lieutenant Szuminski out of the program.

In December 2003, the Kansas City Royals obtained Lieutenant Szuminski from the Cubs in the draft and then traded him to the Padres.

As a condition of his draft, the Padres were obligated to invite Lieutenant Szuminski to their spring training camp in February and give him an opportunity to make the major-league team.

There was only one problem: He still had a year remaining on his active-duty commitment. In a final at-

tempt to keep his dream alive, the lieutenant offered to trade in his one-year commitment for a three-year commitment in the Reserve. He submitted his paperwork and was allowed to attend spring training pending a ruling on his request.

The Air Force approved his transfer to the Reserve, and Lieutenant Szuminski lived up to his end of the bargain by making the Padres as a member of the bullpen.

"I'm extending my commitment, I'll have plenty of time in the off-season to perform my (Reserve) duties, plus I'm really looking forward to doing some stuff for (Air Force and Reserve) recruiting in the off-season," he said.

Lieutenant Szuminski made his major-league debut April 11 during a nationally televised game against the San Francisco Giants and superstar Barry Bonds. He gave up one unearned run in one inning of work and got Mr. Bonds out on a fly ball to left field.

"I knew I was going to pitch to him," Lieutenant Szuminski said. "I was trying to go with my strengths and get him out. I got a front-row seat at how strong he is. I thought he popped that ball up, and it wound up going pretty deep."

U.S. Army marksman wins World Cup Silver Medal

Army News Service

A Soldier with the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit of Fort Benning, Ga., took silver at the International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup April 26.

Sgt. 1st Class Thomas A. Tamas finished second by less than 2 points only to Guy Starik of Israel and in the Men's 50-Meter Prone Rifle competition.

After shooting a 597 points out of a possible 600, Starik shot a 104.7 out of a possible 109 points and won the Gold

Medal with the total score of 701.7 out of a possible 709. Tamas shot a 596 and got a 104.1 in the finals for a total of 700.1. Chrisitan Lusch of Germany took the Bronze Medal after shooting a 596 with a 103.8 in the finals for a 699.8 total.

Raised in Columbus, Ga., Tamas started shooting in 1978 with the Fort Benning Junior Rifle Team. He joined the Army in 1986 and was assigned to the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit after he completed Basic and Infantry Training.

Tamas served with the Army Marks-

manship Unit for seven years before being assigned to the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, in Korea in 1992. After his overseas tour, Tamas returned to Fort Benning and Marksmanship Unit in 1993.

Tamas is a two-time Olympian. In 1992 he did not get to compete in the Olympics because he was an alternate, and in 2000 he placed 13th in Prone Rifle at the Olympics in Sydney, Australia. Last year, he won the Gold Medal and an Olympic Quota Slot for the United States

at the Pan-American Games.

He will be competing for one of two slots on the U.S. Prone Rifle Olympic Team at the Olympic Selection Matches, conducted at Fort Benning May 25 to 27.

Formed in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to raise the standards of marksmanship throughout the U.S. Army.

For more information on the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, visit the unit's homepage www.usarec.army.mil/hq/amu/.

U.S. SOUTHCOM Commander visits JCTF-Orengo



Photos by Pfc. Maryline Mendez, JCTF-Orengo PAO

Gen. Hill visits Saba base camp during New Horizons 2004, Honduras

Sgt. Carlos Montalvo (left), JCTF-Orengo Direct Support Maintenance Inspector, explains some of the maintenance operations in the TAMMS (The Army Maintenance Management System) PLL (Prescribed Load List) to Gen. James T. Hill, U.S. SOUTHCOM Commander, during his visit to New Horizons 2004, Honduras. New Horizons 2004, Honduras is a joint and combined exercise sponsored by U.S. Southern Command. It is designed to provide humanitarian and civic assistance to the communities of Honduras.

Despite rain, JCTF-Orengo on track

Story and photo by Pfc. Marlyne Mendez
JCTF-Orengo Public Affairs Office

For the last few weeks, JCTF-Orengo soldiers have been fighting their battle against the weather. The heavy rains and muddy terrain have affected the mission's schedule for each of the project sites putting them eight days behind.

Company A, 130th EN BN, came to the rescue March 27. They were responsible for the development of four of the seven projects being built during New Horizons 2004, Honduras. These projects were: Juncal Clinic, Balsamo School, San Carlos School and San Francisco School. During their 15-day schedule, soldiers from Company A worked for extended hours to accomplish their mission.

"Thanks to them, we went from being eight days behind schedule to being two days ahead," said Lt. Col. Abel Concha, JCTF-Orengo Commander. "They did a great job. They did not only do their job, but they accomplished what other units could not."

From March 27 to April 8, soldiers from Company A erected the RBS walls and emplaced reinforcement at Juncal's project site, putting it four days ahead of schedule. The walls were pending inspection for the concrete placement next week.

At Balsamo's project site, which is two days ahead of schedule, they completed the fill and compaction operations for the foundation's concrete placement that took place April 2.

They also started the RBS walls layout to be completed by soldiers from the next rotation.

The San Carlos and San Francisco's project sites are back on schedule thanks to the long hours of hard work by Company A. Soldiers worked on the site preparation and layout for the concrete placement held at San Carlos April 5 and at San Francisco on April 7.

The San Carlos latrine's concrete was also placed April 7. They started the RBS walls layout and emplacement procedures in both sites.

Concha awarded 20 soldiers from Company A, 130th EN BN, with an Army Achievement Medal April 11 for their outstanding performance and dedication to their mission before their departure from the Republic of Honduras.

New Horizons 2004, Honduras is a joint and combined exercise sponsored by U.S. Southern Command. It is designed to provide humanitarian and civic assistance to the communities of the Republic of Honduras.

U.S. service members and the Honduran military work to conduct engineering projects and medical operations in the departments of Yoro, Atlantida and Colon.



Pvt. Erick Bell (left) pours concrete at Nueva Armenia's project site with the help of Spc. James A. Barret.

May 14, 2004

News

The IGUANA 7



Photo by Pfc. Michael Tuttle

ARFOR Commander Lt. Col. Douglas Robertson (far right) presents dining facility workers with certificates and ARFOR coins Monday in appreciation for their hard work during the week of the Multinational Airborne operation held recently. Robertson noted that the hearty meals served by the DFAC workers was one of the highlights for the week's guests.

U.S. participates in multinational air combat exercise

Air Force Print News

U.S. Air Force and Navy units are here participating in Maple Flag 37, an international air-combat exercise held May 3 to 14 by the Canadian air force.

About 20 aircraft and 600 people from the United States are practicing combined air operations with air forces from Canada, Germany, France, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Norway and

England.

"We're getting an excellent training opportunity up here," said Col. Russ Handy, U.S. deployed forces commander. "In all recent world conflicts, we've operated as a coalition. Here we are training as we fight — side by side with other nations."

The Maple Flag exercise is similar to the Red Flag exercises held several times a year at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. It

simulates a coalition air war against enemy aircraft and ground targets.

More than 2,000 people and 350 aircraft will be participating over six weeks, which is split into three two-week periods.

Pilots fly missions at the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range, which is more than 4,000 square miles of flying space in northeastern Alberta.

The airspace is just north of 4 Wing

Cold Lake, where the exercise is based, and contains simulated ground targets, electronic interference and surface-to-air missile sites.

"The Cold Lake Air Weapons Range offers our allies almost unparalleled opportunities for advanced air-combat training," said Col. C.S. Sullivan, 4 Wing Commander. "The vast airspace, enhanced by leading edge technology, is very attractive to participating nations."

LandWarNet will increase fighting power

By Spec. Lorie Jewell
Army News Service

Lessons learned in Iraq and Afghanistan are quickly shaping improvements in LandWarNet, the networking system that connects soldiers using technology to the information they need to better defeat enemies.

As the 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga., transforms into modular brigade-sized "units of action," new technology-enabled systems such as "blue force tracking" will be integrated, said Lt. Gen. Steven Boutelle, the Army's chief information officer/G-6, in a Pentagon media briefing. The units will also be equipped with new communications satellite-based systems for supporting command and control, and logistics information systems. Delivery of the systems will start in August and should be complete by November, Boutelle said.

A limited number of units have been using blue force tracking, which gives soldiers a clearer, more detailed picture of the battlefield, but in time, the technology will be standard for all fighting forces, Boutelle said.

The Army is also extending the bandwidth of the

Global Information Grid, or GIG, the conduit that ties soldiers and posts, camps and stations into information systems using satellites, teleports, standard tactical entry points and global broadcast systems positioned all over the world. The GIG also connects the Army to the network systems of other services, allowing for improved joint fighting capabilities.

Bandwidth determines how fast information is delivered. The expansion begins this summer and when complete, will be comparable to converting a 4-square-foot doghouse into a 26,400-square-foot mansion, Boutelle said.

The Warfighter Information Network - Tactical, or WIN-T, is also improving. WIN-T will give commanders and other network users the ability to exchange information with the most current technology. The Army currently has two contractors - Lockheed Martin and General Dynamics - that find and recommend commercial technology, but the Army is in the process of selecting and relying on one contractor, pending DoD approval, Boutelle said.

Improving the Army's information network is imperative in the global war on terrorism, Boutelle and other officials stressed. More and more, the fight rests

with smaller groupings of soldiers in squads, platoons or companies.

In the past, technology delivered information to division, brigade or battalion levels. Officials are now working to put information in the hands of individual Soldiers, Boutelle said.

"The focus now is getting information to the war fighter on the lowest level as quickly as possible," Boutelle said. "If we're going to win the war on terrorism, that's the way to do it."

And as delivery of technology improves, so does the training and organization of the Signal Regiment, said Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks, commander of the U.S. Army Signal Center at Fort Gordon, Ga.

The regiment will move from nine career management fields to four, which will require soldiers to train in a variety of job specialties, Hicks said.

"We'll have automation specialists and radio operators that are going to have to know how to do each others' jobs," Hicks said. "We will have multi-functional signal soldiers."

The main challenge to improving LandWarNet isn't the availability of technology. It's having enough money to get it, Boutelle said.



Photo by Pfc. Michael Tuttle

Spc. Erica Foster (left) and Pfc. Natasha Buchanan are "supervised" by one of the children who lives at La Tierra orphanage as they exchange two water buffalos May 7. ARFOR exchanges water buffalos at the orphanage about twice a week.



Photo by Pfc. Michael Tuttle

1st Lt. Michael Schulte leads a group of paratroopers in their pre-jump rehearsal May 5 at the rigger shed. Paratroopers from Ft. Bragg, N.C. joined the monthly airborne operation.

JTF-Bravo Friendship Chapel Activities Schedule

PROTESTANT ACTIVITIES:

Sunday

0945 Sunday School at Base Chapel
1100 Protestant Worship Service at Base Chapel
1800 Men's Bible Study at Crossroads

Tuesday

1200 Bible Study at Crossroads
1830 Off-Post Prayer Meeting at "Enlaces" (Comayagua)

Wednesday

1900 Bible Study at Crossroads

Friday

1800 Crossroads Open

CATHOLIC ACTIVITIES:

Sunday

0815 Mass at Base Chapel
0930 Bible Study Breakfast at Dining Facility

Wednesday

1200 Mass at Base Chapel

Saturday

1630 Mass at Base Chapel

LATTER DAY SAINTS ACTIVITIES

Sunday

1700 LDS Fellowship at Base Chapel
For more information call the Chapel at 6844/6845



Photo by Pfc. Michael Tuttle

Spc. Christopher Stevens cooks on the grill for a Cinco de Mayo fiesta at the Rally Point. Spc. Angie Crook organized the fiesta that included such foods as homemade torillas, flautas, gorditas, red chile enchilidas, chicken mole, frijoles de hoyo and much more to celebrate the Mexican holiday.